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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

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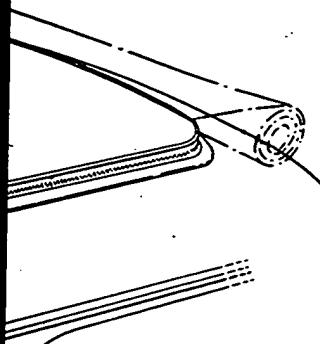


FIG. 1.

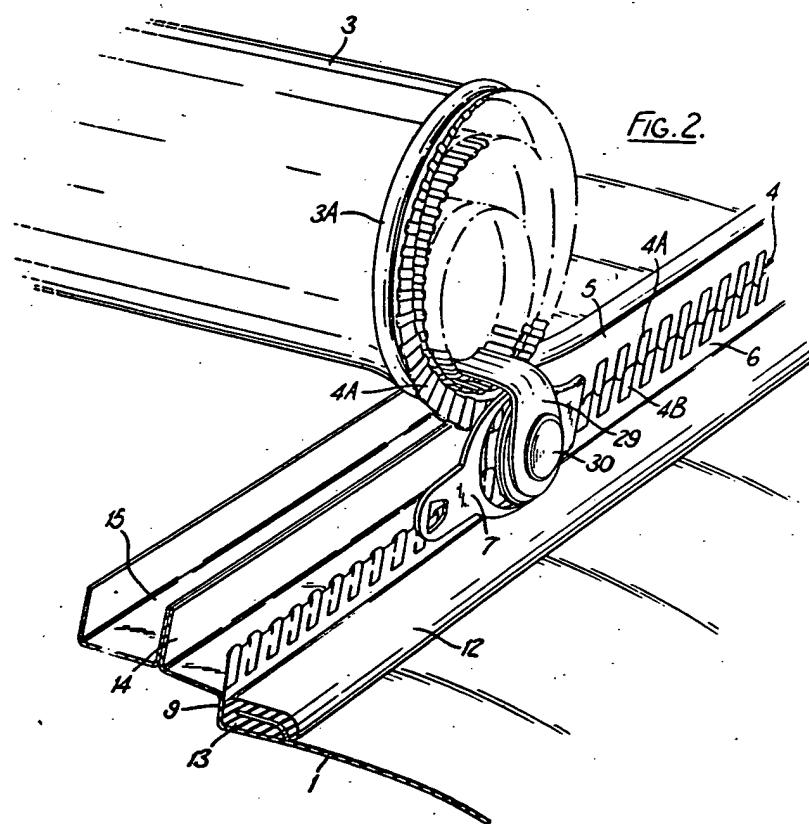


FIG. 2.

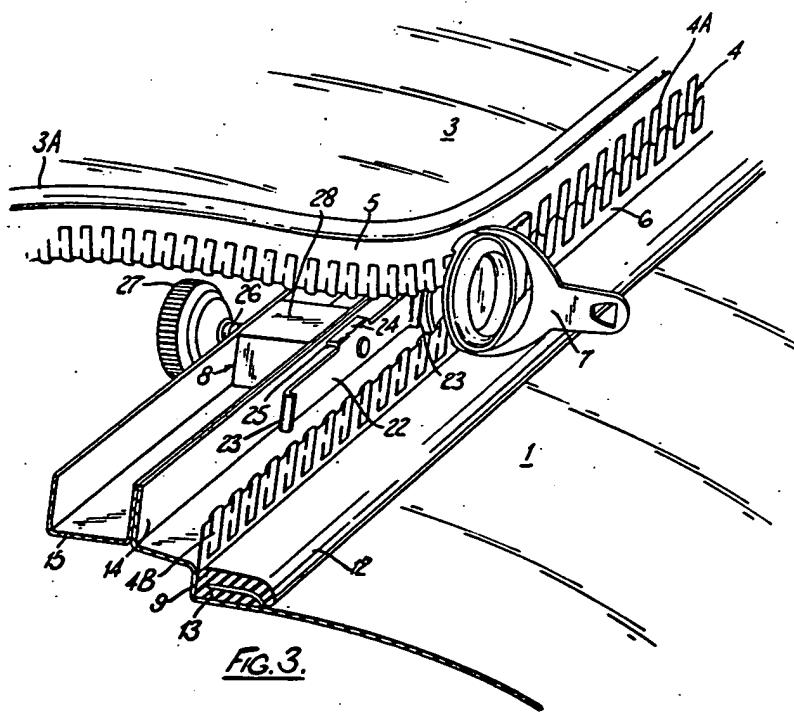
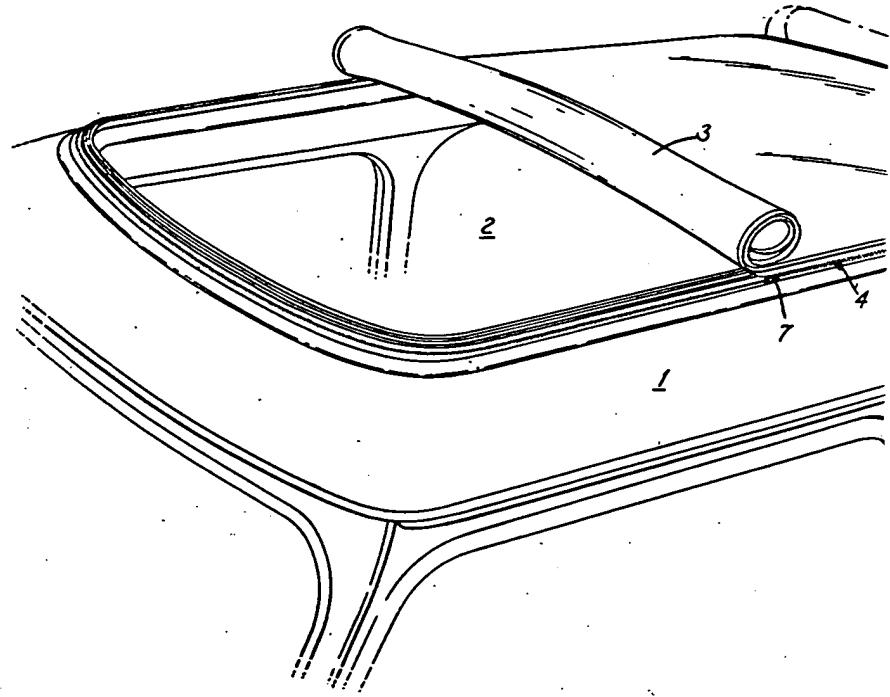
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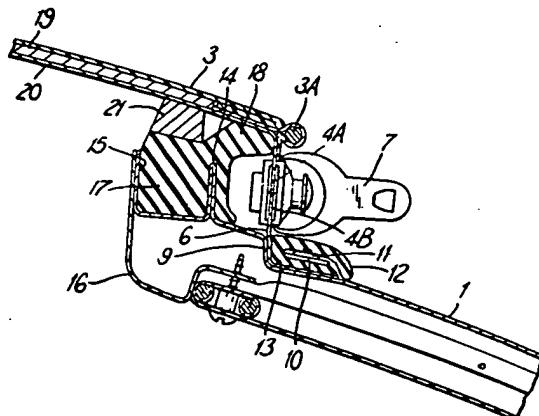


FIG. 4.

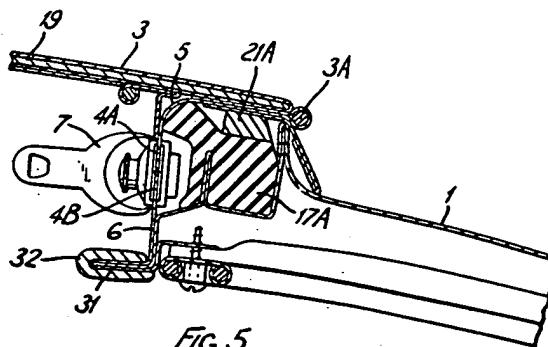


FIG. 5.

PATENT SPECIFICATION

945,571

DRAWINGS ATTACHED.

Inventor:—RICHARD BURZI.



945,571

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements relating to Motor Vehicle Roofs.

We, THE AUSTIN MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED, of Longbridge, Birmingham, a British Company, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to motor vehicles having a saloon-type body with an opening top of the kind in which a foldable cover of flexible and waterproof sheet material is associated with a substantially rectangular opening in a rigid roof structure.

According to this invention a saloon-type motor vehicle body, with an opening top of the kind specified above, has the roof opening fitted with an edging strip of soft rubber at its longitudinal sides and front, and the foldable cover is permanently secured to the roof across the rear of the opening and is detachably secured to the roof at the longitudinal sides and across the front of the opening by sliding-clasp fastening means; the cover incorporating, at spaced intervals, two or more transversely disposed pliable listing bars whose extremities bear against the respective longitudinal sides of the rubber edging strip when the cover is in the closed position.

The arrangement is such that, by releasing the sliding-clasp fastening means, the flexible cover can be rolled up and be retained in place by straps or tabs with snap fasteners.

Referring to the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view

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of a saloon-type motor vehicle body incorporating the invention;

Figures 2 and 3 are enlarged perspective views of portions of the arrangement illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a typical transverse section at the roof opening; and

Figure 5 is a corresponding view of an alternative arrangement.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, the rigid roof panel 1 has a substantially rectangular opening 2 fitted with a cover 3 of flexible, resilient and waterproof sheet material which is permanently secured to the roof panel 1 across the rear of the opening 2, and which is detachably secured to the roof panel at the longitudinal sides and across the front of the opening 2 by sliding-clasp fastening means 4. This comprises: (a) an upper flexible element 4A which, by means of its carrier-tape 5, is secured to, and extends continuously throughout, the longitudinal edges and the front edge of the flexible cover 3; (b) a corresponding lower flexible element 4B which, by means of its carrier-tape 6, is secured to the roof panel 1; (c) two sliders 7 (only one of which appears in the drawings); and (d) an internal locking device 8 (Figure 3).

The sliding-clasp fastening means is located by a vertical abutment face 9 formed in the roof panel 1, and its carrier-tape 6 incorporates a metal strip 10 (Figure 4) to enable it to be attached securely to the roof panel by means of either drive screws 11 or rivets which are concealed by the flap 12 of a rubber finishing strip 13.

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abutment face 9, the roof panel 1 terminates in an upstanding flange 14 to which is welded a channel member 15; a roof side inner reinforcing panel 16 (Figure 4) being welded

5 to the channel member 15. The latter serves to accommodate a soft rubber edging strip 17 (omitted from Figures 2 and 3) which is shaped to engage over the flange 14, and which has a cantilever-like lip 18 upon which the margin of the flexible cover 3 bears.

10 The flexible cover 3 (which has a beading 3A around its edges) is fitted, at spaced intervals, with two or more transversely disposed pliable listening bars 19 (Figure 4). These are held in individual pockets 20 provided in the flexible cover 3, and are preferably moulded in fibreglass and shaped to conform to the transverse contour of the roof panel 1. At the locations of the listening bars 19, rubber blocks 21 are secured to the edging strip 17 to support the listening bars.

15 When the roof opening 2 is completely closed by the flexible cover 3, the two sliders 7 adjoin each other at the centre of the front of the cover, being arrested by stops at this position. The locking device 8, which is also located at that position, comprises a plate 22 formed at each end with a flange 23. This plate, which has a tongue 24 passes through a guide slot 25 in the flange 14 and the abutting side of the channel member 15, is movable by a screw-threaded rod 26 which passes through aligned apertures in the channel member 15 and the flange 14, and which is operable by a knob 27. When this is rotated to a sufficient extent in the direction to advance the plate 22, the flanges 23 trap the sliders 7 and prevent these from being moved. The tongue 24 and the screw-threaded rod 26 are enclosed by a sheet metal cover 28 lodged in the channel member 15.

20 When the sliders 7 are released by retraction of the locking plate 22, they can be moved apart to enable the flexible cover 3 to be rolled back to the desired extent. It is then retained in the required position, at each side of the roof, by a tab 29 (Figure 2) permanently attached to the underside of the cover 3 at a convenient distance from its front edge; the tab 29 having a press-stud 30 which is engageable with a co-operating socket in the body of the slider 7 to form a snap fastener.

25 In the alternative arrangement depicted in Figure 5, the sliding-clasp fastening means is located inside the roof. This necessitates locating the channel member 15 differently, and modifying slightly the cross-sectional shapes of the rubber edging strip 17A and its associated rubber blocks 21A. The carrier-

tape 6 of the lower flexible element 4B, in this embodiment, is anchored to a flange 31 which is shrouded by a rubber beading 32.

30 When the sliding-clasp fastening means is located internally, as in Figure 5, the flexible cover 3 has no intermediate position of adjustment and the roof opening must be either closed or completely open. In the latter case the rolled-up cover 3 is retained in place by two straps at the rear of the roof opening.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS: —

1. A saloon-type motor vehicle body with an opening top of the kind specified, in which the roof opening is fitted with an edging strip of soft rubber at its longitudinal sides and front, and the foldable cover is permanently secured to the roof across the rear of the opening and is detachably secured to the roof at the longitudinal sides and across the front of the opening by sliding-clasp fastening means; the cover incorporating, at spaced intervals, two or more transversely disposed pliable listing bars whose extremities bear against the respective longitudinal sides of the rubber edging strip when the cover is in the closed position. 8

2. A saloon-type motor vehicle body according to Claim 1, in which the rubber edging strip is accommodated in a channel member, and has a cantilever-like lip upon which the margin of the flexible cover bears. 9

3. A saloon-type motor vehicle body according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the sliding-clasp fastening means includes two sliders each incorporating part of a snap fastener of which the co-operating part is attached to the flexible cover, for the purpose specified. 10

4. A saloon-type motor vehicle body according to Claim 3, in which the two sliders are located outside the roof, and, inside the roof, a locking device is provided by which releasing movement of the sliders can be prevented. 10

5. A saloon-type motor vehicle body having an opening top which is constructed and arranged substantially as described with reference to Figures 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings. 11

6. A saloon-type motor vehicle body having an opening top which is constructed and arranged substantially as described with reference to Figure 5 of the accompanying drawings. 11

A. H. STEED,
Chartered Patent Agent.

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